State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 21, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Shamrock Mining Associates, LLC, Blind Stream Mine, S/013/004, Duchesne, County, Utah

Date of Inspection:	July 14, 2003
Time of Inspection:	2:40 to 4:30 p.m.
Conditions:	Partly cloudy, 70's
Participants:	Jeff Keith (operator); John Sather (Pelican Point Mining); Dave Herron and Chauncie Todd (Ashley National Forest); Wayne Hedberg and Paul Baker (DOGM)

Purpose of Inspection:

The operator has proposed expanding the mine, and we wanted to become familiar with it.

Getting to the Site:

Beginning on SR 35 a short distance northwest of Hanna, turn east on the road leading to Blind Stream and Rock Creek. This road is also called 42750 N. Follow this road for 7.9 miles and take the left fork. After another 1.75 miles, take the right fork for about 0.95 miles to the mine.

Observations:

The operator is mining a vein of golden-colored calcite (Photo 1). There is a thin layer of very rocky soil in most places, but the calcite extends to the surface with essentially no soil in others. Some of the dominant plant species in the area include mountain brome; Kentucky bluegrass; slender wheatgrass; yarrow; Louisiana sage; Gordon's ivesia; a currant, probably gooseberry currant; sheep fescue; at least three species of penstemon; Engelmann spruce; and subalpine fir.

The operator particularly wants to mine larger, unfractured pieces of calcite, and this material tends to be at greater depths. There are two veins in the area of the mine , and they extend for a few hundred feet to the northwest (Photo 2). Also visible in Photo 2 is a depression indicative of karst topography that exists in the area. Partly because of this topography where the water quickly goes underground, there is almost no surface water in spite of the elevation (about 10,600 feet).

So far, the mine consists of a trench from the bottom of the depression back in towards a hill (Photos 3 and 4). Overburden and waste have been placed on one side of the trench (the right side of Photo 3).

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The road to the mine is steep, narrow, and rough. We discussed with Mr. Sather whether it would be necessary to widen or otherwise improve it. He indicated a little widening and some other minor work might be required in a few areas but that he did not expect major improvements to be necessary.

Mr. Sather said he does not intend to have a true highwall but that the quarry will be benched. Soil, overburden, and waste will be taken directly back to the mined out area and seeded each year so there is no large reclamation liability when mining is completed. This also allows the operator, the Division, and the Forest Service to evaluate various reclamation techniques on a continuing basis and to make adjustments in the reclamation plan.

The operator is currently permitted to mine up to 600 tons a year and is seeking approval to mine up to 6,000 tons a year. The Division does not anticipate any problems with allowing this to happen as long as the operator follows the regulatory performance standards.

jb
cc: Jeff Keith, Shamrock Mining
Dave Herron, Duchesne Ranger District, Ashley National Forest
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ATTACHMENT
Inspection Date: July 14, 2003; Report Date: July 21, 2003
Photographs
S/013/004, Blind Stream Mine, Shamrock Mining Associates

Photo 1. The calcite the operator is mining.

Photo 2. View looking back toward the mine (left center) approximately along one of the calcite veins.

Photo 3. The mine excavation.

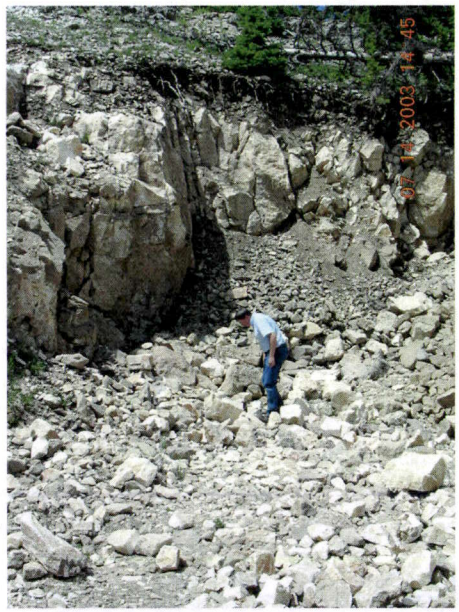

Photo 4. Inside the mine excavation.